

Media, PA – On Monday, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) toured and spoke with employees at Arkema, Inc. in King of Prussia and then Air Products Healthcare in Conshohocken. During these meetings, Congressman Sestak listened to their priorities and concerns, and spoke of his interest and support for the growth of high-value manufacturing businesses in the District and region. — Congressman Sestak has hosted two Economic Summits since assuming office to help businesses connect to key local, state, and federal resources. The goal was to help businesses grow, as well as bring business, government, and academic leaders together to foster dialogue and discussion about strategies to increase economic development opportunities. In addition, while serving as the Vice Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, Representative Sestak has played a key role in the reauthorization of highly successful Small Business Association (SBA) programs. This has included introducing the SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007, which reauthorized the popular Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Program and Service Corps for Retired Executives (SCORE). Joe has been a strong proponent of STEM education and strengthening workforce development programs to help meet area businesses meet their employment needs.

Arkema is a world-class producer of vinyl products and industrial chemicals - including acrylics, PMMA, thiochemicals, fluorochemicals, and hydrogen peroxide - and of performance products like technical polymers, specialty chemicals, functional additives and urea formaldehyde resins. In particular, Arkema has been a leader in the latest defense technology. Earlier this spring, Joe helped Arkema secure \$250,000 in this year's Defense Department Authorization Bill for the research and development of light and versatile shelters for use during combat that offer greater resistance to hazardous chemicals and biological products.

"Our military has to provide shelter and protection for our troops and equipment. One challenge is finding a cost effective way to do this. Currently the average cost for a two person tent is \$3,000. Arkema, Inc has a solution that not only reduces the cost but also improves the performance," Joe, "It also offers better chemical and biological resistance. The use of this material will not only improve performance but reduce the weight of the shelter by 30 – 40 %, allowing a larger number of shelters to be delivered in an air load (or helicopter load). From pure economics, each pound saved is worth \$50 - \$100 to the government in life-cycle cost. Finally, the product is made from the naturally-grown castor plant and functions as a true renewable resource. This project will focus on optimizing and qualifying the non-woven substrate into shelters."

Since Joe entered Congress, he has met with numerous businesses throughout the District and worked with them in to pursue their initiatives that support vital research in equipment technology, bio-terrorism, logistics systems, wireless technologies, interoperability, emergency

broadband systems, and other areas that assist our men and women in uniform. Because of these meetings, he informed the House Armed Services Committee of the important work that is being done there toward the critical transformation of the military. In particular, he secured authorized funding, nearly \$40 million, for industries and research laboratories from our region in the Defense Authorization bill.

Air Products Healthcare is a Philadelphia-area based home oxygen provider in West Conshohocken that provides home oxygen therapy, a service that allows patients to maintain independence and higher quality of life. They deliver home oxygen and medical equipment to 75,000 Eastern Pennsylvania area residents annually; many suffer from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other related lung diseases. An estimated 57,000 Pennsylvania residents depend on this. There are almost one million people in the United States who depend on oxygen from Medicare and this number has been increasing. For many, home oxygen therapy is the only treatment that can alleviate their symptoms and allow them to live better lives. Moreover this kind of care reduces the number of hospitalizations.

“As the number of Americans suffering from lung disease continues to rise, services such as home oxygen therapy are becoming increasingly important to the comfort and security of patients,” said Joe. “I am pleased to meet with the skilled workers, suppliers and caregivers who provide Pennsylvania’s patients with reliable, high quality care in the comfort of their home.”

Earlier this year the Congressman cosponsored and voted for legislation to require the government to negotiate for lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries. The Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act of 2007 will help seniors get better prices on prescription medications under Medicare. The provision in the current Medicare Rx Drug law, which explicitly forbids the Department of Health and Human Services from conducting such cost-reducing negotiations, will be repealed. The Democratic bill will require—not just authorize—the Secretary for Health and Human Services to negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers. And he is also a cosponsor of the Elder Justice Act, a piece of legislation that would create the Elder Justice Coordinating Council to make recommendations on elder neglect, provide organizations and states with ombudsmen to address abuse and neglect in nursing homes, and provide older Americans with the same protections as victims of domestic abuse.

Moreover, Congressman Sestak supported the Congressional budget which included a reserve fund to reform and improve Medicare for beneficiaries and protect access to care. The proposed changes included improving the prescription drug benefits and creating a more

sustainable system for paying physicians. Reserve funds provide a special mechanism to help high-priority policy initiatives clear budget process hurdles.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.